

Watershed Connections

Delivering News to the Carson River Watershed Community

Photo By: Brenda Hunt

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It's Flood Season, Are You Prepared? by Kayla Meyer, Nevada Division of Water Resources

Winter is flood season in Northern Nevada! To increase understanding and raise awareness about flooding, a series of community events took place over Nevada's Flood Awareness Week, November 12-18, 2017 throughout Northern Nevada. The week kicked off with a community event at the Meadowood Mall in Reno, giving Washoe residents the opportunity to come out and speak about flood preparedness with various agencies including City of Reno Public Works Department, Nevada Division of Water Resources, U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Truckee River Flood Management Authority and National Weather Service.

Douglas County residents attended a community event at the Douglas County Community Center. Residents could view FEMA flood maps, learn about the Johnson Lane Area Drainage Master Plan, sign-up for emergency alerts and talk with local, state and federal agencies about flood issues. Residents learned how to be flood prepared and had the opportunity to experience different flooding scenarios with a hands on Floodplain Model. Similar informational events were held in Yerrington and Elko.

Be prepared for spring 2018 flooding with these helpful resources:

- For more information about what to do before, during and after a flood, visit www.nevadafloods.org. The website features tools to determine potential [flood scenarios](#), your [home or workplace flood risk](#) and associated [costs of flood damage](#). For Kids, check out this emergency planning game, [Flood Fighter](#).
- Local weather information such as official warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information can be found on [The National Weather Service website](#).
- [American Red Cross of Northern Nevada](#) 775-856-1000.
- For additional flood information contact: Nevada Division of Water Resources: State Floodplain Manager at 775-684-2847 or the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension: Water Resource Specialist at 775-336-0244.

Scan to be directed to our website:



www.cwsd.org

ARE YOU PREPARED?
www.NevadaFloods.org



Billboards used for the 2017 NevadaFloods.org campaign

4th Annual Alpine Aspen Festival a Success in Alpine County

By Gavin Feiger, AWG Watershed Program Manager



Photos Courtesy of Judy Wickwire

Alpine Watershed Group, in partnership with Friends of Hope Valley, thank all our partners for helping make the 4th Annual Alpine Aspen Festival a huge success. On October 7th and 8th, hundreds of excited festival goers enjoyed the perfect combination of beautiful weather, vibrant aspen trees, and enthusiastic speakers and activity leaders in Alpine County. The Alpine Aspen Festival is held in stunning Hope Valley, surrounded by the peaks of “California’s Alps” and their spectacular aspens. Known for its scenic vistas, this part of Alpine County is especially beautiful in the fall when the aspens pop out of the



landscape, turning brilliant shades of yellow, orange, and red. These vivid groves stand out against the evergreen forests, colorfully highlighting the wet, sunny, and recently disturbed areas favored by aspen trees.

The goal of the Aspen Festival is to bring awareness to Alpine County’s watersheds by engaging leaf-peepers more deeply with the source of their water. During this year’s event, we held 38 workshops, hikes, events, and tours. These activities bring attention to the history of the area, current recreation opportunities, as well as ongoing watershed protection and restoration efforts. Over 20 environmental and community groups offered educational displays; providing additional information and

opportunities to get involved in Alpine County’s watersheds year-round. Over the weekend, an estimated 1,000 people of all ages from as far away as England and as close as Woodfords participated, along with over 200 canine guests. Music, food, and drinks from local artists and vendors created a festive atmosphere.

Alpine County is the headwaters of 5 major rivers and provides water to nearly 5.5 million people in Nevada and California. While the Alpine Aspen Festival serves to showcase Alpine County’s watersheds in the fall, there are opportunities to enjoy and engage with your headwaters year-round. Please visit AWG’s website, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and sign up for our e-newsletter to learn more: www.alpinewatershedgroup.org.



Nevada State Parks within the Carson River Watershed

By: Kim Zuch, Washoe State Park

Did you know there are four Nevada State Parks located within the Carson River Watershed? Mormon Station State Historic Park, Dayton State Park, Fort Churchill State Historic Park, and Lahontan State Recreation Area offer hiking trails, picnicking and camping facilities, rich history, water sports, equestrian opportunities, and even quiet places to stargaze.

[Mormon Station State Historic Park](#) is a small park in downtown Genoa, NV. Located at the base of the Sierra Nevada, and higher in elevation, the park has a mix of pine and cottonwood trees, mule deer, Stellar's Jays, and an occasional bear. The site once served as a trading post for pioneers headed west along the Carson Route of the California Trail. The original trading post, built in 1851, burned down during the Bedbug Fire of 1910. The museum



Mormon Station Photo Commons License

was reconstructed in 1947 and is home to a variety of historical artifacts. Displays include the Washoe People, Snowshoe Thompson, Mormon history, and more! Today Mormon Station offers a group use area available by reservation, a dog-friendly walking park, and is the site of the Genoa Candy Dance.



Remains of Rock Point Mill. Photo Courtesy of Kim Zuch

[Dayton State Park](#) is a 160 acre park located in the heart of Dayton, NV, near the town's historic district. Short hiking trails take visitors through cottonwood galleries to scenic points along the Carson River, offering opportunities for wildlife viewing, catch and release fishing, and birdwatching. The park has a group use area and a small campground, and features the remains of the Rock Point Mill. The mill, built in 1861, processed ore from the gold and silver mines of the nearby Comstock District.

[Fort Churchill State Historic Park](#) and [Buckland Station](#) are located on Highway 95A, south of Silver Springs. Fort Churchill, is the site of a military fort built in 1861 along the Carson River as a result of the Pyramid Lake War. Built to protect early settlements and the Pony Express route, it was used for less than a decade. Buckland Station is a renovated historic two-story ranch house on the banks of the Carson River. The house was built using materials from the

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SAVE THE DATE!
Carson Watershed Forum
April 10th – 11th, 2018
Carson City Community Center



12th Annual Snapshot on the Carson River by: Mary Kay Wagner, NDEP



Carson Montessori 4th Grade Students Photo by Brenda Hunt

October 20th, 2017 marked the 12th Annual Carson River Snapshot Day. Snap Shot Day equates to taking a 'picture' of the river system in one-moment in time. Snap Shot Day samples water throughout the Carson River watershed as a complete hydrologic unit. This event offers students, parents, and educators the

chance to experience the river first-hand and interact with passionate natural resource professionals. Over 275 individuals from ten schools participated in the event from the headwaters in Alpine County, CA to the terminus in Churchill County, NV.

At eleven pre-selected sites, expert team leaders guide monitoring teams ranging from 4th grade to high school to conduct field studies that provide a "snapshot" of environmental conditions in the watershed. Each team assesses the water quality and riparian habitat of their assigned site and learn about nonpoint source pollution prevention, the water cycle, wildlife habitat, and benefits derived

The primary purpose of Snapshot Day is to measure water quality, document and study the riparian habitat, and increase understanding about issues facing the watershed. Data gathered from each site at the same time on the same day, documents an annual "snap shot" of the river.



Students learn about dissolved oxygen levels
Photo by Louise Thompson

from their watershed.

Students conduct field tests for dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH and temperature. They collect other water "grab" samples for laboratory analysis of nutrients, turbidity and bacteria. Students complete habitat assessments for their sites to provide basic visual observations and photo documentation of vegetation and stream conditions.

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Watershed Program Specialist, Shane Fryer engaging students in a lesson on nonpoint source pollution
Photo by Louise Thompson

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Students are curious and eager to understand how their actions affect their watershed. Many of the monitoring sites are located in parks and recreation areas visited frequently by participants. Teaching awareness of how close activities are to our water source brings recognition of human impact. Learning about land uses near water sources educates participants about possible sources of pollution. Each land use, whether agricultural, industrial, or residential has the potential to affect nearby streams.



Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager, engages students in a flood model demonstration.

Photo by Louise Thompson

Another valued outcome of Snapshot Day

is the opportunity for students to learn and work alongside natural resource professionals. This informal job shadow exposes students to exciting career opportunities and transfers ecological stewardship principles to a new batch of field recruits.

THANK YOU to the following resource partners for your time, expertise, and your desire to share your passion to impart watershed stewardship: Alpine Watershed Council, Friends of Hope Valley, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Resource Concepts, Sierra Nevada Journeys, NV Department of Environmental Protection, Carson City Public Works and Parks & Rec, Carson Water Subconservancy District, University of NV Cooperative Extension, NV State Parks, Dayton and Lahontan & Stillwater Conservation Districts, River Wranglers, and NV Department of Wildlife. Without this valuable source of in kind resources, Snapshot Day could not have grown into what it has become today.



Enthusiastic students learn about water chemistry and clarity.

Photo by Louise Thompson

April 29 – May 2, 2018 | Lake Tahoe, California

www.rivernetwork.org



River Rally,
hosted annually by River Network,
is a national conference for
river and water champions.
River Rally brings together
hundreds of people
from across the United States
and the world who care about rivers
and water issues.

Completed and Current Carson Valley Conservation District Projects

By: Rich Wilkinson, Carson Valley Conservation District

The Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) is working on multiple Carson River projects ranging from bank stabilization to noxious weed treatment. CVCD is actively engaged in planning and completing river projects resulting from the January and February 2017 flooding events. CVCD staff are assisting several negatively impacted property owners with project planning, agency coordination, contracting and project management. Funding is available from FSA or NRCS for river bank stabilization and rehabilitation projects. The CVCD staff is assisting property owners to acquire permits and navigate the funding assistance process in order to implement these projects. The Hussman Ranch bank stabilization/ rehabilitation project also included funding for habitat improvement from US Fish and Wildlife Service and NV Department of Wildlife.



Carson River post highwater erosion and property loss
Photo by Jean Stone

The CVCD was successful in its bid for Channel Clearing and Snagging funds for two projects. One project involves removal of large sediment bars just upstream and downstream from Lutheran Bridge in Gardnerville. This will help eliminate some choke points in high water events. The

other project involves mastication of vegetation and woody debris at the Cradlebaugh Slough Bridge over US 395, with possible sediment removal once the slough channel is exposed. The Cradlebaugh Slough Bridge project received tremendous support from Douglas County, East Fork Fire Protection District and Nevada Division of Water Resources, as it will minimize floodwaters from closing Highway 395. Staff is cautiously optimistic that these projects can be completed before increased flows from spring run-off. The Nevada Division of Water Resources, CWSD and Douglas County are funding partners on these two projects.

Working with landowners, the CVCD conducted another successful Noxious Weed treatment season in Carson Valley. The CVCD mapped, inventoried and treated over 10,000 acres of noxious weeds. This treatment was in partnership with Douglas County and local agricultural producers. The CVCD plans to submit a funding proposal to the Nevada Department of Agriculture for funding in 2018 to help the District focus more weed treatment along the Carson River Corridor.

Originally, the CVCD received funding to perform

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2018 Water Summit

January 30, 2018
Nevada Room
606 Mountain Street, Carson City, NV 89701
8:00 am—12:00 pm

Doors open at 8:00 am; presentations begin at 8:30 am

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Edwin James, CWSD | 8:30- Opening Remarks |
| Jason King, State Engineer | 8:50- Possible impacts to NV Water Law – What Keeps Regulators Up At Night |
| Mike Dettinger, USGS | 9:30- "What will the Carson River be Like in 2050? A climatologist's perspective" |
| Wes Kitlaster, USGS | 10:15- Implications of earlier snowmelt and runoff on surface water and groundwater use in the Carson Valley? |
| Bruce Holmgren, NDEP | 10:45- Framework for Indirect Potable Reuse in Nevada |
| Benjamin Hatchett, DRI | 11:15- "Recent winter snow level rise in the northern Sierra Nevada: Proximal causes and potential implications" |
| Edwin James, CWSD | 11:45- Closing Remarks |



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Carson Water Subconservancy District
777 E. William St., #110A, Carson City, NV 89701

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bank stabilization work along the Hussman Ranch. Due to the 2017 flooding/highwater events, the scope of the work changed so much, the District had to move the project elsewhere. As a result, two bioengineering projects were completed, one on The Nature Conservancy River Fork Ranch property, and the other just south of the Genoa Lakes Golf Course. Nevada Division of Environmental Protection awarded CVCD 319 Water Quality funding for a bank restoration/stabilization project just downstream from the Cradlebaugh Bridge for 2018. This project was originally identified in the 2012 edition of the Carson River Floodplain Management Plan. We anticipate the project to start following the spring and summer runoff.



Carson River February 2017. Photo by Shane Fryer

Need more information? Contact Rich Wilkinson, richard.wilkinson@nv.nacdnet.net.

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Fort Churchill State Historic Park
Courtesy NV State Parks

decommissioned fort in 1870. The Buckland residence served as a boarding house and stop on the Pony Express. Fort Churchill offers equestrian trails, two group use areas, a riverside campground and picnic area, museum, historic ruins, and hiking trails. It is also a great place to view the stars.

[Lahontan State Recreation Area](#) is located in Silver Springs and provides boating access to the Lahontan Reservoir and the Carson River. [The Lahontan Dam](#) was built as part of the Newlands Project in 1915 and still provides water to farmlands in and around Fallon, NV. The landscape varies between typical high desert sage, to cottonwood and willow in the riparian areas adjacent to the reservoir and river. Activities include boating, catch and release fishing, picnicking and camping, and horseback riding. Other popular activities include hunting (where allowed), wildlife viewing, birdwatching, and stargazing.

These parks offer seasonal interpretive programs and are open year-round. We hope this inspires you to get out there and explore your watershed! More information can be found at www.parks.nv.gov.



Lahontan State Recreation Area
Courtesy NV State Parks

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Upcoming Events

January 30, 2018
8:30am-12pm
Water Summit
Carson City, NV. For more information
Visit: <http://www.cwsd.org>

February 27-March 1, 2018
Nevada Water Resources Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV
For more information
Visit: www.nvwra.gov

April 11-12, 2018
Carson River Watershed Forum
Carson City Community Center
Carson City, NV
Stay tuned for more information!

April 21, 2018
10:00am-2:00pm
Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Earth Day
Oats Park, Fallon, NV

April 29-May 2, 2018
River Rally
Lake Tahoe, Ca
Hosted by River Network
Visit: <https://www.rivernetwork.org>

TBD
June 2018
Carson River Coalition
20th Anniversary Celebration
Stay tuned for more information!

TBD
September/October 2018
2-Day Carson River Watershed
"Get On the Bus" Tour
Stay tuned for more information!



CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
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